

BOROUGH OF WIDNES



Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for **1949**

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OF THE

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH
COMMITTEE.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health of Widnes for 1949, and I am happy to report that the health of the Borough compares favourably with previous years.

The birth rate showed a decrease, being 21.1 per thousand compared with 22.8 per thousand in 1948, but was still much higher than the rate for England and Wales, which was 16.7 per thousand.

The crude death rate showed a slight increase, being 10.7 per thousand compared with 9.9 per thousand in 1948. This compares favourably with the death rate for England and Wales which was 11.7 during 1949.

The infant mortality rate has shown a further decrease, the rate being 53 per thousand live births compared with 60 in 1948 and 74 in 1947.

I am also pleased to report that, for the third year in succession, the maternal mortality has been nil.

The incidence of infectious disease was less than during the previous year. 763 cases have been notified, compared with 923 during 1948. The reduction is due, in the main, to a decrease in measles and whooping cough during the year.

Only two cases of Diphtheria were notified.

Fifty-two cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, compared with 56 for the previous year, and 15 cases of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, as against 22 in 1948.

Mr. J. G. MacDonald, who had served the Department and the Borough faithfully for fifty years, resigned in July and Mr. Starkey was appointed to the position of Senior Sanitary Inspector. In the re-organisation of the Health Department, an additional District Sanitary Inspector was appointed.

Any report on the health of the local population would be incomplete without some observations on the unsatisfactory state of the housing in many parts of the Borough.

Experience has shown that unsatisfactory housing and the presence of overcrowding has an adverse effect on the health of the population, and, no matter how good our health statistics may

be, they could not but be improved by the provision of an adequate number of suitable houses in good surroundings and at economical rents.

Those engaged in active Public Health work find it difficult to describe in measurable terms, the dissatisfaction, frustration and despair which arise from the compulsory and interminable sharing of houses and which may well reveal themselves in broken homes, mental ill-health and anti-social behaviour.

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Health Committee for their support and encouragement during the year and also to the officials of the Corporation for their assistance at all times.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
F. W. BUNTING,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough in acres	...	...	...	...	...	6,178
Population at Census, 1931	...	...	...	...	...	40,619
„ Estimated 1949	...	...	...	...	...	48,090
Density of Population (i.e., No. of persons per acre)	...	...	...	...	...	7.78
No. of Inhabited Houses (1931 Census)	...	...	...	...	...	8,641
No. of Inhabited Houses (End of 1949 according to	...	...	...	...	...
rate book)	...	...	...	...	...	12,625
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£252,754
Sum represented by 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	...	£1,000

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Number of Births: Males 551, Females 462	...	...	...	1,013
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the Population	...	...	...	21.1
Number of Deaths: Males 271, Females 243	...	...	...	514
Death-rate per 1,000 of the Population	Crude	...	...	10.7
	Adujusted	...	...	13.6
Excess of Births over Deaths	...	...	...	599
Number of Deaths of Infants (under the age of one year)	...	...	...	54
Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	53
Deaths from Influenza	...	...	...	1
Death-rate from Influenza per 1,000 of the population	...	...	...	.02
Death-rate from Cancer	...	...	...	1.6
Death-rate from Phthisis	...	...	...	.58
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	—
Number of women dying in consequence of child birth—	...	...	...
From Sepsis	...	...	...	—
Other Causes	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	7
Percentage of total Deaths occurring in Public	...	...	...
Institutions	...	...	...	39.6

ANALYSIS OF VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION—

The population returns since 1861 are given below:—

Year	Population	Inhabited houses	Average per house
1861	6,893	1,150	5.99
1871	14,359	2,519	5.66
1881	24,918	4,994	5.0
1891	30,011	5,121	5.86
1901	28,580	5,350	5.34
1911	31,544	6,102	5.16
1921	38,879	7,437	5.22
1931	40,619	8,534	4.63

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population for the year 1949 was 48,090. This is, therefore, an increase of 650 over the estimated population for 1948.

BIRTHS—

	Total	Males	Females		
Legitimate	969	527	442	} Birth Rate (R.G.)	21.1
Illegitimate	44	24	20		
Birth-rate for England and Wales					16.7

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS—

The percentage of births, which were illegitimate, during each of the past 15 years is as follows:—

1935	2.9 per cent.	1942	5.2 per cent.
1936	2.5 per cent.	1943	6.0 per cent.
1937	3.1 per cent.	1944	5.6 per cent.
1938	2.4 per cent.	1945	9.8 per cent.
1939	2.4 per cent.	1946	7.0 per cent.
1940	4.7 per cent.	1947	4.7 per cent.
1941	4.1 per cent.	1948	4.5 per cent.
	1949	4.3 per cent.	

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1949—

CAUSES OF DEATH	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards
Typhoid and Paratyphoid									
Fevers	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Encephalitis	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	26	—	—	—	1	5	12	7	1
Other Tuberculosis diseases	6	1	—	1	—	2	—	1	1
Syphilis	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer, malignant diseases	77	—	—	—	—	—	7	30	40
Diabetes	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	39	—	—	—	1	—	3	3	32
Heart Disease	159	—	—	—	1	2	3	34	119
Other Circulatory diseases...	14	—	—	—	1	—	1	7	5
Bronchitis	31	—	—	—	1	—	1	14	15
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	31	7	3	3	—	1	3	3	11
Other Respiratory disease ...	10	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	5
Ulcer	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Diarrhoe, etc, under 2 years	7	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Other digestive diseases ...	10	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	6
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	8	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	5
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	32	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suicide	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents ...	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1
Other Violence	13	3	—	1	3	—	—	—	6
All other causes	25	3	—	—	—	1	8	3	10
Totals	513	54	4	6	10	15	45	115	264

The following is a summary of the deaths of persons belonging to Widnes, which occurred in institutions during the year 1949:-

Widnes Accident Hospital	...	...	...	1
„ Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	—
„ Maternity Home (Infants 5)	...	...	...	5
Whiston County Hospital (Infants 24)	...	...	...	162
St. Helens Hospital	...	...	...	1
St. Helens Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	3
St. Helens Providence Hospital	...	...	...	1
Warrington Infirmary	...	...	...	1
Warrington General Hospital	...	...	...	3
Winwick Hospital	...	...	...	1
Rainhill Hospital	...	...	...	2
Liverpool Northern Hospital	...	...	...	1
„ Royal Infirmary	...	...	...	1
„ Southern Hospital	...	...	...	5
„ Women's Hospital	...	...	...	1
„ Radium Institute	...	...	...	4
„ Alder Hey Hospital	...	...	...	1
„ Belmont Road Hospital	...	...	...	1
„ Smithdown Road Hospital	...	...	...	2
Other Hospitals	...	...	...	9
Total	...	...	...	205

The following table summarises the Vital Statistics of the Borough :—

	Per 1,000 of Population			Per 1,000 Births		
	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Death Rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death Rate from Cancer	Maternal Rate of Mortality	Rate of Deaths under 1 year
Mean of 5 years—						
1944-1948	24.3	11.4	0.57	1.78	1.11	68
Year—						
1948	22.8	9.9	0.46	1.66	—	60
1949	21.1	10.7	0.58	1.60	—	53
Increase or Decrease in 1949 on Five Years' average						
1944-48	—3.2	—0.7	+0.01	—0.18	—1.11	—15
Previous Year	—1.7	+0.8	+0.12	—0.06	—	—7

INFANT MORTALITY

The causes of Deaths of Infants during 1949 are recorded in the following table :—

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Gastro Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	6
Penumonia	2	1	—	—	3	2	2	—	—	7
Congenital Defects	4	2	—	—	6	2	—	—	—	8
Other Congenital Defects	5	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	5
Congenital Debility	2	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	4
Digestive Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Births	10	1	1	—	12	1	—	—	—	13
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Circulatory failure	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.B. (Non. pul.)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Overlaying	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	3
Other Causes	1	—	—	—	1	1	4	—	—	6
Totals... ..	24	4	1	—	29	11	12	1	1	54

It will be seen that the number of deaths amongst infants under one year was 54. This represents an infant mortality rate of 53 per thousand live births, which, although considerably higher than what we are aiming for, compares favourably with a rate of 68 per thousand for the preceeding five year period. For the third year in succession we have recorded a reduction in the infant mortality rate and it is to be hoped that this will be a continuing occurrence.

It will be noted that the largest group in the above table is the one relating to premature births; the other main groups being Diarrhoea and Enteritis, Congenital Malformations and Pneumonia.

Detailed information of these infant deaths is not easily assessed if the object is to arrive at an accurate assessment of all the factors involved. Details concerning the 54 deaths occurring of infants belonging to Widnes have been studied. These numbers, however, are small as far as statistical analysis is concerned and it would, therefore, be unwise to arrive at any dogmatic conclusions. Nevertheless, the findings may be of value for comparative purposes in the future.

The following observations are made:-

HOME CONDITIONS

Dividing home conditions roughly into three categories — good, fair and poor, the distribution was as follows:-

Good	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Fair	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Poor	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

Amongst the 6 cases of enteritis investigated 4 were in good homes and 2 in poor.

SOCIAL CATEGORIES:

The Registrar General has made a revision of the Social Categories which are as follows:—

Class I	—	Professional etc., Occupations.
Class II	—	Intermediate Occupations.
Class III	—	Skilled Occupations.
Class IV	—	Partly Skilled Occupations.
Class V	—	Unskilled Occupations.

The distribution of deaths investigated are as follows:—

Class I	—	2
Class II	—	2
Class III	—	11
Class IV	—	26
Class V	—	13

Unfortunately, the distribution of the population in the Borough amongst the various social categories is not known. Investigations however, into large numbers of infant deaths have shown that the infant mortality increases as one descends the social scale.

POSITION IN FAMILY:

The following indicates the position in the family:—

First Born	—	14
Second Born	—	14
Third Born	—	12
Fourth Born	—	6
Fifth Born	—	3
Sixth Born	—	3
Over Sixth Born	—	2

It will be noted that almost 50 per cent of the infant deaths occurred in children who were the third member of the family or over.

PREVIOUS INFANT DEATHS:

In the 54 cases investigated there was a history of previous infant deaths in 13 of the families concerned. The causes of death amongst the infants concerned who died during 1949 are as follows:—

Prematurity	...	...	...	...	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3
Congenital Condition			...	...	3
Whooping Cough	...	...	...		1
Other conditions	...	...	...		2

LABORATORY FACILITIES—

Bacteriological Examinations—

The number of specimens examined in 1949 was:—

Diphtheria.....	40	General.....	4
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The number of Bacteriological Examinations carried out in 1948 was 54.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

(i) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR—

DISEASE				Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	...	...	...	2	2	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	150	129	—
Para-typhoid	...	...	...	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	1	—	—
Malaria	...	...	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	23	—	31 (all forms)
Erysipelas	...	...	...	9	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	304	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	200	—	1
Acute Polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	7	7	1
Food Poisoning	...	...	..	1	—	—
Tuberculosis—						
(a) Pulmonary	...	M	.....	24	—	8
		F	.....	28	—	18
		Total	...	52	—	26
(b) Non-Pulmonary		M	.....	9	—	4
		F	.....	6	—	2
		Total	...	15	—	6

(11) ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS—

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED												
	Total Cases at all Ages Under 1	Years											
		1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	
Diphtheria .	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Scarlet													
Fever	150	1	3	18	20	34	59	11	1	1	1	1	—
Measles .	304	18	61	77	40	43	60	2	—	3	—	—	—
Whooping													
Cough	200	19	32	40	26	32	50	—	—	—	1	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal													
Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	23	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	3	5	4	3	4
Erysipelas	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	3
Ophthalmia													
Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal													
Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Acute Polio- encephatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polio- myelitis	7	1	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
Pulmonary T.B.													
M.	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	6	9	1
F.	28	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	8	12	3	2	—
Non-Pulmonary													
M.	9	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	—	—	—	—
F.	6	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	—	—	—
Totals ...	763	42	96	139	87	111	176	15	20	33	17	19	8

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—

There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified during the year.

SCARLET FEVER—

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the preceding five years was: 1944—241; 1945—289; 1946—240; 1947—88; 1948—99. There were no deaths from this disease during the year, and the cases were all of a mild type.

DIPHTHERIA—

The following Table gives the incidence of this disease during the past 10 years :—

Year	No. of Cases	No. of Deaths	Year	No. of Cases	No. of Deaths
1940	200	6	1945	14	0
1941	160	9	1946	19	0
1942	95	4	1947	4	0
1943	30	2	1948	0	0
1944	23	0	1949	2	0

None of the fatal cases recorded in the above Table had been immunised.

The low incidence of Diphtheria in the Borough is directly attributable to the high percentage of children who are immunised against diphtheria.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS:

During the year seven cases of acute anterior poliomyelitis were notified. There was one death and in four cases some paralysis remained requiring special treatment.

TUBERCULOSIS. The number of cases of Tuberculosis and of all deaths from the disease during 1949 will be found in the following table:—

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0-1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
1-5	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	—
5-10	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
15-20	3	8	4	1	—	2	1	—
20-25	3	3	—	—	—	3	1	—
25-35	2	9	—	3	—	5	—	—
35-45	6	3	—	—	2	5	—	—
45-55	8	1	—	—	3	2	—	—
55-65	1	1	—	—	2	—	1	1
65 - upwards	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	24	28	9	6	8	18	4	2
	52		15		26		6	

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths over notified was 5/32.

The following Table gives the incidence of Tuberculosis during the past 20 years:—

Annual Average	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	
	Case rate per 1,000 of population	Death rate per 1,000 of population	Case rate per 1,000 of population	Death rate per 1,000 of population
1929/1933 ...	1.30	.87	.98	.18
1934/1938 ...	.85	.64	.59	.16
1939/1943 ...	.84	.53	.69	.14
1944/1948 ...	1.1	.44	.56	.09
1949 ...	1.08	.58	.31	.12

Whilst the incidence of new cases both pulmonary and non-pulmonary is slightly less than during the previous year, the position regarding the entire problem of tuberculosis remains most unsatisfactory. One of the major problems is the grave shortage of hospital beds which exists throughout the whole country, and which necessitates many acute cases remaining in their own homes for periods ranging from weeks to months. An added complication is the existence of overcrowding in many homes where there is a case of Tuberculosis.

Working under these many disadvantages it is little wonder that we are making negligible progress at the present time in controlling what, is, after all, an infectious disease.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY—

The water supply of the Borough is obtained by pumping from deep wells in red sandstone formations. Seventy-two samples were analysed by the Bacteriologist and eight by the Public Analyst of the City of Liverpool and were found generally to be highly satisfactory.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION—

There are 94 privy middens, but they are situated in the rural parts of the Borough and cannot be converted owing to the absence of adequate sewers. There are only three waste water closets in existence, and it is calculated that 12,594 houses are provided with fresh water closets.

REFUSE REMOVAL—

This work is carried out entirely by the Highways Committee, for which purpose covered vehicles are used. There are 35 dry ashpits and 94 ashpits attached to privies. The remaining houses in the Borough being provided with portable bins.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT—

A record of the work of the Sanitary Department is as follows:—

Defects or Nuisances: No. Discovered	...	2,860
No. Abated	...	2,490
No. of Notices served: Informal	...	1,396
Statutory	...	254
No. of Legal Proceedings taken	...	—
No. of Premises visited	...	5,148

Premises kept under observation	Number of Premises	Number of Inspections
Factories, sanitary accommodation	163	188
Bakehouses	18	162
Slaughterhouses	—	—
Milkshops	104	260
Food Premises	137	374
Ice Cream Premises	26	78
Cowsheds	21	53
Common Lodginghouses	5	83
Tents and Caravans	5	30
Visits to premises where cases of Infectious diseases have occurred	240	164
No. of premises disinfected after cases of Infectious Diseases ...	240	—

SMOKE ABATEMENT—

During the year every effort was made to reduce the amount of atmospheric pollution due to the emission of smoke from factory chimneys within the Borough.

The average deposit for the whole of the Borough during 1949 is estimated at 252.47 tons per square mile. This is a decrease of 20.78 tons on the figures for the year 1948 when 273.25 tons per square mile was recorded.

One hundred and eighty observations of factory smoke were recorded and on 46 occasions (or 25.5%) the emissions were in excess of the permitted standard. This shows a slight improvement over 1948 when 167 observations gave 46 (or 27.6%) excessive emissions. Factory managements have been notified or interviewed following each observation of black smoke above standard.

Improvement to steam raising plant in three factories have shown good results.

Four complaints of dust nuisance have been investigated and abated following the Smoke Inspector's representation to the people concerned.

A course in Boiler House Practice was held at the Technical College during the year, and attended by 15 students. This is a very small number when compared with the number of men in Widnes engaged in steam raising plants. An increase in the number of trained boiler house personnel employing scientific methods of firing would reduce by a large amount the emission of black smoke and at the same time save a deal of fuel.

It is hoped that managements will encourage their staffs to attend Courses provided in the future.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS—

51 houses belonging to the Corporation and 44 private dwellings were treated during the year because of verminous infestation.

In addition householders have been encouraged to carry out disinfestation and were fully supplied with suitable spraying insecticides and Gammexane powder.

RODENT CONTROL—

Three whole-time rodent operatives were employed by the Local Authority and carried out their work to the formula of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. A summary of the work carried out during the period is appended.

Premises	Number treated	Bait applied (lbs.)	Poison Bait applied (lbs.)	Estimated Destruction		Bodies found	
				Rats	Mice	Rats	Mice
Public Sewers	1389	1173	180	2107	—	81	—
Manholes							
Dwellinghouses	207	97	82	435	1131	104	371
Other Premises	63	199	143	602	1215	82	291
Council Tips	8	220	48	519	—	164	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY—

The number of milk dealers other than cow-keepers on the register is 104. 23 Dealers Licences for the distribution of T.T. milk, 47 for the distribution of Pasteurised Milk, and 94 for the distribution of Sterilised Milk were issued. One Pasteurisers Licence and one Supplementary Licence were also issued. With effect from October supervision of Dairy Farms was taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture.

101 samples of Pasteurised Milk were submitted to the Liverpool City Bacteriologist for examination. Thirteen were found

to be unsatisfactory under the Methylene Blue Test, while eight, when applied to the Phosphatase Test were reported to be insufficiently heat treated. These adverse results were reported to the Area Milk Officer.

(b) ICE CREAM—

In accordance with Departmental procedure the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream in the Borough were closely investigated.

Fifty-five samples of the finished product, and three of ingredients, were received from local dealers and submitted to an independent bacteriologist at Warrington, for examination under (1) Methylene Blue Test as prescribed by the Ministry of Health; and (2) for evidence of any contamination by organisms of faecal coli.

Under the first test, the samples submitted were classified as follows: Grade 1—29; Grade 2—15; Grade 3—9; Grade 4—5.

Submission to second tests resulted in eight samples being found to contain intestinal organisms and were consequently adjudged to be unsatisfactory. The Department's inspectors co-operated with the manufacturers concerned in efforts to eliminate likely sources of contamination and these proved successful inasmuch as in every case check samples submitted to the Bacteriologist from time to time gave entirely satisfactory results.

It is noteworthy that the factories in the district are provided with standard equipment, that the dealers are most anxious to ensure all the essentials of modern hygienic food production shall be properly observed.

Systematic inspections of road vehicles, used by the dealers belonging to Widnes and the neighbouring towns, for the sale of ice-cream within the Borough have been carried out, and it is satisfactory to report that in every case efforts are being made to equip the vehicles with suitable fitments which will assist the salesman in charge to maintain a high standard of personal cleanliness.

FOOD PREPARATION—

During the course of the year 374 visits were made to premises where food is stored, prepared and sold. It was necessary to serve notices in 13 instances where the conditions did not comply with the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. These notices were all complied with.

Systematic inspections were made of vehicles delivering meat to butchers' shops in the Borough. In a number of instances the condition of the vehicles was unsatisfactory, and representation was made to the haulage contractors concerned. A marked improvement followed, and all vehicles delivering meat in the Borough are now satisfactory in design and construction.

Regular inspections of food stalls in the Borough Market were made during the year. A considerable improvement in conditions was achieved by the transfer of a number of food stalls to the enclosed market, where the likelihood of contamination is less. The only foodstuffs now sold on the open market are fruit, vegetables and fish. A small enclosed refreshment stall which is satisfactory in design and equipment, is also in use in the open market.

One case of food poisoning was notified during the year. The suspected source was a meat pie purchased outside the borough. The health department of the Local Authority concerned was contacted without any definite further information becoming available.

Five cases of suspected food poisoning were brought to my notice and it was discovered that in each case shrimps had been consumed. Extensive investigation into the wholesaling and retailing of shrimps, insofar as this district was concerned, was made; but it was not possible to definitely associate the consumption of shrimps with this suspected outbreak. A sample submitted to the City Analyst proved to be satisfactory.

(d) OTHER FOODSTUFFS—

Foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year were as follows:—

1,150 tins of milk, 194 tins and 57lbs. tomatoes, 128 tins Vegetables, 51 tins of meat, 226 tins soup, 21 tins preserves, 42 tins fruit, 36 tins fish, 9lb. butter, 41lb. cheese, 18½lb. bacon, 95½lb. brawn, 14 bottles sauce, etc., 28 tins spaghetti, 7 tins pudding, 5 tins fruit juice, 3 tins beans, 3 jars meat paste, 3 tins sausage, 1 tin dried egg, 1 bottle coffee, 1 bottle gravy, 3 tins macaroni, 5 boxes dates, 1 pkt. suet.

The following samples were examined by the Liverpool City Analyst:—

Milk (raw)	...	...	...	16	Dried Milk	...	...	...	1
T.T. Milk	...	...	...	1	Ice-Cream Cornet	...	...	...	1
Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	4	Fat—Fish frying	...	...	...	1
Brandy	...	...	...	1					
Potato Crisps	...	...	...	2	Cooking oil — potato crisps	...	...	...	4

HOUSING

Number of New Houses erected during the year—

Total	192
(i) By the local authority—Traditional permanent houses	172
(ii) By other bodies or persons	20

Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year—

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1,779
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	3,588
2. (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	190
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	190
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	6
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	1,120

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	830
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Action under Statutory Powers during the year—

(a) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1,396
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	207
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	4
(c) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	Nil

Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding—

(a) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ...	359
(b) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...	161
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	1,235

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	111	115	9	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	52	73	—	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out - workers premises).	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL	—	163	188	9	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred			
				To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	3	3	—	2	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	7	1	1	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.) ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :							
(a) insufficient ...	9	5	5	—	3	—	9
(b) unsuitable or defective	10	1	1	—	1	—	10
(c) not separate for sexes ...	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences (not including offences relating to Home- work) ...	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL ...	60	10	10	—	6	—	60

